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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : William J. Meserve *et al.*

Appl. No. : 09/643,172

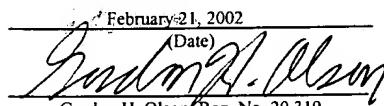
Filed : August 21, 2000

For : FIRE EXTINGUISHER WITH
MEANS FOR PREVENTING
FREEZING AT OUTLET

Examiner : Dinh Q. Nguyen

Group Art Unit 3752

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
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February 21, 2002
(Date)

Gordon H. Olson, Reg. No. 20,319

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 7, 2001

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to Examiner's Office Action mailed December 7, 2001. Pursuant to the shortened statutory period of three months, response is timely filed by March 7, 2002.

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Drobyshev.

Claims 1, 4, 11, and 12 stand rejected as anticipated by Drobyshev. Drobyshev is inapplicable to any claim in the instant application. Drobyshev discloses a fire extinguisher material comprising zeolite saturated with argon. This material is used in situations "in which water is not permissible," for example to extinguish burning alkali metals. In other words, Drobyshev discloses an extinguishing material for class D fires. The zeolite in Drobyshev is part of the fire extinguishing material, that is, it is discharged onto the fire. Drobyshev teaches that zeolites absorb gases at high temperatures and pressures. Consequently, the zeolite in Drobyshev